FM River Project

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Biographical Sketch of Authors

Tom Moe is a Water Resources Engineer at the University of North Dakota (UND) Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC). He received both an M.E. in Environmental Engineering and a B.S. in Geological Engineering from UND. Mr. Moe is coordinator of the Red River Water Management Consortium, a partnership of federal, state, municipal, industrial, and rural entities working together to develop water management strategies within the Red River Basin. He is also the technical lead for the FM River Project.

Charlene Crocker is a Chemist and Research Scientist at the EERC. She is a coinvestigator in regional education and outreach programs, providing hands-on geoscience and water resource educational opportunities for secondary students and the general public. She has several years of experience as a naturalist, environmental educator, and interpreter.

Dan Daly holds a B.A. in Earth Science from New Mexico Highlands University and an M.S. in Geology from the UND. Mr. Daly is a Research Manager at the EERC and has taken part in projects involving the assessment of energy resources, waste management practices, and government energy policy. In addition to managing water-related educational projects at the EERC, Mr. Daly is Coordinator for the Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition, one of 80 local coalitions formally recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy that work to advance the use of alternative energy in transportation.

Wes Peck is a Research Scientist at the EERC and holds an M.S. in Geology from UND and a B.S. in Earth Science from North Dakota State University. Mr. Peck's principal areas of interest and expertise include water resource and watershed management, GIS, database programming and design, and Web page management. Mr. Peck has most recently been involved in the Red River Water Management Consortium and in the development of research databases in the areas of watershed management and air toxic metals.

Abstract

Research, community education, and media partners in the Red River Basin are collaborating to establish a coordinated water quality-monitoring and information network for the Red River in the Fargo, North Dakota–Moorhead, Minnesota (F–M) metropolitan area. FM River is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) project designed to provide area citizens accurate, timely information on the quality of the Red River of the North. Water quality is the focus of the project since the Red River is the main source of drinking water for some 150,000 inhabitants of the area, a significant source of industrial water supply, a critical element in the health of the local ecosystem, and an emerging recreational resource. The need for this information is acute because of the vulnerability of the Red River, the continued growth of the area, and the direct impact of the community on water quality.

Specific objectives for the project include collecting and assembling timely data on chemical and biological water quality parameters and conditions for the Red River, developing dissemination tools including the FM River Web site (www.fmriver.org), linking the information to community education on water quality issues, providing a forum for community participation and interaction, and developing a sustainability plan for the program. The program seeks to provide hands-on educational opportunities for students and citizen volunteers and increase community understanding of watershed processes for the protection and improvement of ambient water quality. FM River is built on a local partnership of governmental, educational, and community volunteer groups.